


NSC BRIEFING

6 May 1959

FRANCE-ALGERIA

- I. One year after 13 May coup in Algiers, De Gaulle's bid to restore France to domestic and international health depends essentially on solution to the Algerian problem.
- II. In France itself, gains during the year have been substantial, but the rebellion in Algeria, now 4 1/2 years old, shows no let-up, despite evidence of more efficient French army operations.
- A Sixteen of France's nineteen divisions engaged in trying to suppress it.
- B De Gaulle has had considerable success in establishing control over the army and settlers. *keeping*
- B. Extremists may try to demonstrate against him on 13 May, but the army can probably keep them under control.
- C. He is trying to court Moslem support with broader political representation and an economic reform program *which, however,* but it will not begin to show results for several years.
- D. 
- E. Rebel leader still dedicated to goal of independence, however, and balk at De Gaulle's cease-fire offer without political discussions.
- F. Meanwhile, as more effective border control pinches rebel supply lines, they are looking to Sino-Soviet Bloc for arms--delegation now in Peiping.

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- III. Continuance of Algerian war bringing increasing international difficulties for France.
 - A. Tunisia and Morocco are pressing French to evacuate Bizerte naval base and Moroccan air bases.
- IV. On 13 May anniversary image of De Gaulle as all powerful savior of situation is beginning to wear thin in some quarters.
 - A. Labor especially--ideologically opposed to war anyway--is increasingly restless and charges that austerity program puts cost of war on the workers.